AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New)   A method for transporting time division multiplexed traffic over packet switched networks between transmitting parties, comprising the steps of:

a)   compressing time division multiplexed traffic by removing idle timeslot data from said time division multiplexed traffic; and,

b)   adding signalling data to said time division multiplexed traffic regarding which idle timeslot data has been removed, wherein said signalling data is added to free bits or bits having prefixed values in a timeslot 0 of a time division multiplex frame.

13. (New)   The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of encapsulating compressed time division multiplex frames into data packets and forwarding the data packets over the packet switched network.

14. (New)   The method according to claim 12, wherein the packet switched network type is selected from the group consisting of:

Internet Protocol;

Multi Protocol Label Switching;

Asynchronous Transfer Mode; and,

Frame relay.

15. (New)   A method for receiving time division multiplexed traffic over packet switched networks, comprising the steps of:

examining received signalling data in time slot 0 of a time division multiplex frame, said signalling date identifying where idle timeslot data has been removed; and,

decompressing said time division multiplexed traffic, wherein the time division multiplexed traffic is encapsulated in data packets, by inserting prefixed idle pattern data into received data packets as a function of said received signalling data.

16. (New)   The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of decapsulating the decompressed packet switched traffic into time division multiplex traffic.

17. (New)   The method according to claim 15, wherein the packet switched network type is selected from the group consisting of:

Internet Protocol;

Multi Protocol Label Switching;

Asynchronous Transfer Mode; and,

Frame relay.